

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

March 17, 2015

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [General Updates](#)
- [Tools and Resources](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences and Events](#)
- [Farm to School Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Farm to School Media Mentions](#)



2014-2015 Wisconsin Farm to School AmeriCorps members

## General Updates

### Call for Partner-Site Applications for DATCP-AmeriCorps Farm to School Program!

The AmeriCorps – DATCP Farm to School Program provides an innovative approach to building healthy communities by improving child nutrition through the implementation of educational activities for students and families about healthy eating choices within an educational setting. Additionally the Farm to School program serves to developing strong communities by creating future community leaders and connecting schools with local farmers and food businesses. Partner host sites, through the service of AmeriCorps Members, are given the additional capacity to connect farmers with schools, work with food service directors to increase the use of healthy local foods, promote healthy eating through

nutrition education in the classroom, and build sustainable Farm to School coalitions in their communities.

More information about the requirements of the Partner-Site application can be found here: [AC-DATCP Farm to School New Host Site request for Proposals](#)

## 2016 USDA Farm to School Grants Announced

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the release of a request for applications for the USDA's Fiscal Year 2016 round of [Farm to School](#) grants. Designed to increase the availability of local foods in eligible schools, these grants help new farm to school programs get started or expand existing efforts by facilitating stronger connections between local and regional producers and school cafeterias. More information about the grant program, upcoming webinars relevant to applicants and sample grant applications can be found online at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>.



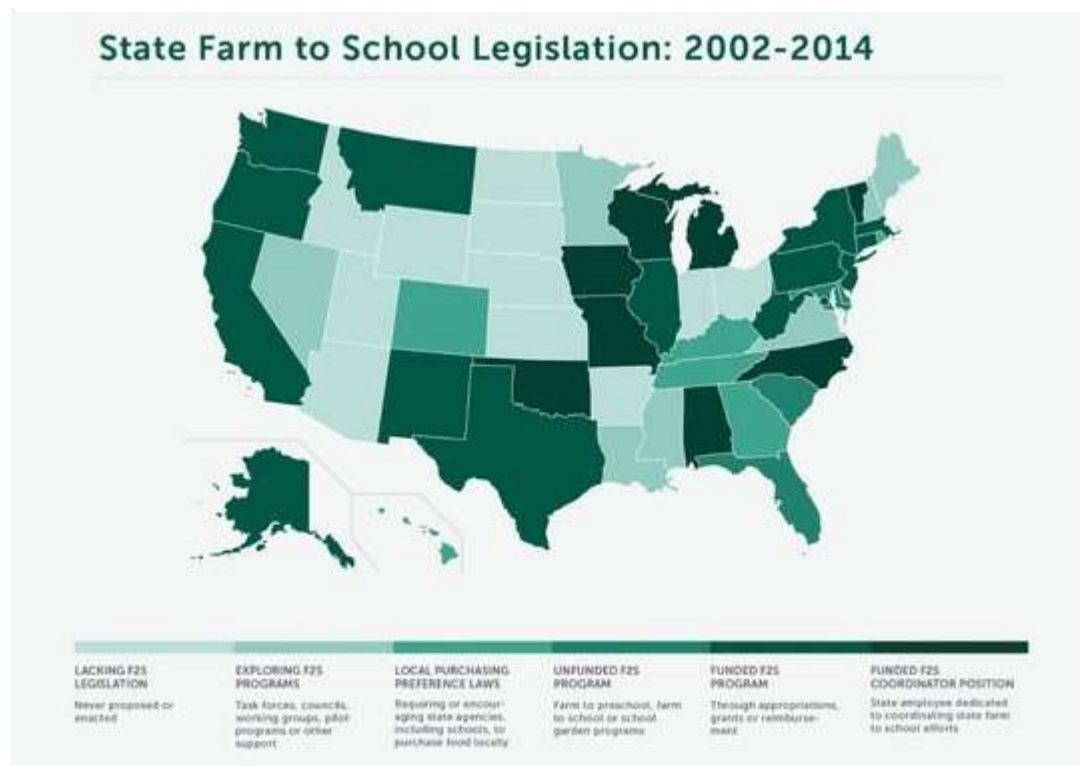
## Farm to School Act of 2015

There are a lot of ways to learn about Child Nutrition Reauthorization. The [Farm to School Act of 2015](#) builds on the success of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 by proposing an increase in funding from \$5 million to \$15 million for the [USDA Farm to School Grant Program](#). The bill would also ensure that the grant program fully includes preschools, summer food service sites, after school programs, and tribal schools and producers while improving program participation from beginning, veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. To learn more, download this [fact sheet](#) or visit [farmtoschool.org/cnr2015](http://farmtoschool.org/cnr2015).

# Tools and Resources

## State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2014

The recently released [State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2014](#) offers a comprehensive review of state-level farm to school policies, analysis of national trends, and advocacy guidance for those working to advance the farm to school movement across the country. The survey is designed to offer farm to school advocates a roadmap, allowing them to learn from the success of other states and copy their efforts. [Download](#) the full document on the National Farm to School Network's website or [check out this map](#) to see how your state compares. The survey was prepared by researchers at [Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#).



## Webinars, Conferences and Events

### Promoting your Farm to School Program

You've put in so much hard work! Now, how do you promote your farm to school program to ensure student, school, and community engagement? Hear from several school districts who have successfully promoted farm to school programs while managing a tight budget.

From January through May, 2015, the USDA Farm to School Program will host webinars every two weeks to help you build your farm to school toolkit. Join us for tips and insights on topics like building a team, menu planning, program sustainability, and more! Even if you haven't joined us – there's still time! Check out the list of webinars happening this spring.

To join us live, register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YMTTVNK>. All times listed are Eastern.

1. Promoting Your Farm to School Program, March 19, 2:00 pm
2. School Gardening, April 2, 2:00 pm
3. Curriculum Integration, April 16, 2:00 pm
4. Program Sustainability, April 30, 2:00 pm
5. Evaluating Your Program, May 13, 2:00 pm
6. Tying it All Together and Digging In, May 28, 2:00 pm

### **Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit**

The [Great Lakes Intertribal Food Summit](#) is scheduled April 14-16, 2015 in Oneida, Wisconsin. Check the event page for more details.

## **Farm to School Funding Opportunities**

### **Voices for Healthy Kids opportunities for funding**

Are you working to improve access to affordable, healthy foods for all children and families? Voices for Healthy Kids can support your work. Voices for Healthy Kids is providing funding to coalitions to advance coordinated issue advocacy campaigns focused on ending childhood obesity. Healthy food procurement is one of their priority areas. Organizations working to ensure that food and beverages sold and served on government property are healthy and meet specific nutrition guidelines may be eligible for funding. Learn more and apply for funding at [www.voicesforhealthykids.org](http://www.voicesforhealthykids.org).



### **Let's Move Salad Bars to the Midwest**

The goal of Let's Move Salad Bars to MIDWEST Schools is to increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption by donating free salad bars to schools in Wisconsin.

It's easy for schools to apply for a salad bar. Visit [www.saladbars2schools.org](http://www.saladbars2schools.org) to complete an application.

# Farm to School Media Mentions

## [Twenty-two States Pass Farm to School Legislation in 2014](#)

A total of 22 states passed 41 farm to school-supportive bills and resolutions in 2014, a 64 percent increase over 2013, according to a report released.

Read the story in [Wisconsin Ag Connection](#)

## [Farm-to-School programs prove successful](#)

The overall goal of the Vernon County Farm to School program is to integrate fresh, whole foods into school lunches and classrooms in southwest Wisconsin, while teaching children the lifelong benefits of healthy eating.

[Westby Times](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).